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Public Health Committee  
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Re: Raised Bill No. 1065: To change a requirement concerning an applicant's eligibility for a license as an alcohol and drug counselor.

To the Connecticut General Assembly Public Health Committee:

To expedite this correspondence, I will omit the details of the matter at hand and move directly to my vehement support of the passing of bill No. 1065.

The entry into the addiction counseling field should not be a mere post graduate afterthought requiring only a semester's worth of education in counseling.

A student or professional deciding to enter this field must not only demonstrate their prowess as a potential licensed drug and alcohol recovery counselor, they must show a dedication to the educational specificity required.

This must require an education and practicum which marries all facets of the professional's pursued behavioral health education directly to drug and alcohol counseling.

The bill passed in June, 2012, which allowed professionals and students to all but circumvent this vital requirement, is tantamount to allowing an individual with an MA in Anthropology to become a licensed alcohol and drug counselor by simply completing six classes in counseling at the graduate level.

Our credibility as professionals, the safety of our clients and the welfare of our community's health as a whole are all at stake today.

I trust that this committee will see the importance of the passing of this bill.

Daniel P. OKeefe  
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Student, Manchester Community College's  
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